

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/694,873

Examiner

Ngoc K. Vu

Applicant(s)

JARMAN, MATTHEW

Art Unit

2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/27/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12, 20-28, 47-51, 53 and 54.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/9/04, 9/27/04, 10/7/04, 10/15/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gregory P. Durbin on December 13, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 1, lines 15-16, "and comparing it with each navigation object" has been deleted.

In claim 1, line 16, "the position corresponding to" has been deleted.

In claim 1, line 17, "position code is" has been changed to --position code of the multimedia content falls--, and after "within", --the star and stop positions defined by-- has been inserted.

In claim 1, line 18, "to be" has been changed to --to fall--, and after "within", --the star and stop positions defined by-- has been inserted.

In claim 1, line 20, "multimedia content for that" has been deleted, and after "portion", --of the multimedia content-- has been inserted.

In claim 1, line 30, "a video" has been changed to --the specific filtering--.

In claim 6, line 1, "consumer's" has been changed to --the consumer--.

In claim 12, lines 16-17, "and comparing it with each navigation object" has been deleted.

In claim 12, line 17, "the position corresponding to" has been deleted.

In claim 12, line 18, "position code is" has been changed to --position code of the multimedia content falls--, and after "within", --the star and stop positions defined by-- has been inserted.

In claim 12, line 19, "to be" has been changed to --to fall--, and after "within", --the star and stop positions defined by-- has been inserted.

In claim 12, line 21, "multimedia content for that" has been deleted, and after "portion", --of the multimedia content-- has been inserted.

In claim 20, lines 14-15, "and comparing it with each navigation object" has been deleted.

In claim 20, line 15, "the position corresponding to" has been deleted.

In claim 20, line 16, "position code is" has been changed to --position code of the video content falls--, and after "within", --the star and stop positions defined by-- has been inserted.

In claim 20, line 17, "to be" has been changed to --to fall--, and after "within", --the star and stop positions defined by-- has been inserted.

In claim 20, line 19, "video content for that" has been deleted, and after "portion", --of the video content-- has been inserted.

In claim 20, line 29, "a video" has been changed into --the specific filtering--.

In claim 25, line 3, "retrieving the" has been changed to --retrieving a--.

In claim 27, line 1, "the consumer's" has been changed to --the consumer--.

In claim 28, line 1, "consumer's" has been changed to --the consumer--.

In claim 47, line 21, "and comparing it with each navigation object" and "the position corresponding to" have been deleted.

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In claim 47, line 22, "position code is" has been changed to --position code of the multimedia content falls--, and after "within", --the star and stop positions defined by-- has been inserted.

In claim 47, line 23, "to be" has been changed to --to fall--, and after "within", --the star and stop positions defined by-- has been inserted.

In claim 47, line 25, "multimedia content for that" has been deleted, and after "portion", --of the multimedia content-- has been inserted.

In claim 47, line 35, "a video" has been changed to --the specific filtering--.

In claim 53, line 3, "retrieving the" has been changed to --retrieving a--.

In claim 54, "the consumer's" has been changed to --the consumer--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to automatically identifying and filtering portions of multimedia content during the decoding process. The closest prior art, Ostrover (US 6,351,596 B1) discloses a method and system for content control of broadcast programs. Particularly, during play of a stored program, the system consults the stored user preferences and the previously generated file to determine scenes to be skipped and the starting point of any scene that is to follow a scene that is to be skipped, wherein the previously generated file includes data from which the starting and ending points of individual scenes can be determined. However, Ostrover does not teach or suggest the distinct features included in each independent claim: the object store including a plurality of navigation objects, each of which defines a portion of the multimedia/video content that is to be filtered by defining a start position and a stop position and a specific filtering action to be performed on the portion of the multimedia/video content defined by the start and stop positions for that portion; as the multimedia/video content is decoding, continuously monitoring the position code to determine whether the position code

of the multimedia/video content falls within the star and stop positions defined by one of the navigation objects; and when the position code is determined to fall within the star and stop positions defined by a particular navigation object, activating the filtering action assigned to the particular navigation object in order to filter the portion of the multimedia/video content defined by the particular navigation object.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc K. Vu whose telephone number is 703-306-5976. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on 703-305-4755. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ngoc K. Vu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ngoc K. Vu
Examiner
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December 13, 2004